Date: September 1, 2004

Contact: Linda Coates-Markle, 406-896-5223

## **BLM Schedules Public Meeting on Wild Horse Range Study**

The Bureau of Land Management is inviting the public to a meeting to discuss a study of the agency's Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (PMWHR). The meeting will be Thursday, September 9, 2004, at the Montana State Office Conference Room, 5001 Southgate Drive in Billings from 7-9 p.m.

The focus of discussion will be a study of the health and sustainability of the PMWHR. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service performed the study to help the BLM determine the numbers of wild horses the range could support. In addition to approximately 160 wild horses, about 100 bighorn sheep inhabit the range yearlong, and 350 mule deer are present in the winter. The document is available online at: <a href="http://www.mt.blm.gov/bifo/horses files/index.htm">http://www.mt.blm.gov/bifo/horses files/index.htm</a> or by contacting the Billings Field Office at 896-5013.

Personnel from the NRCS will be available at the meeting to answer questions about the study and its recommendations. The public is encouraged to review the document prior to the meeting in order to optimize question and answer opportunities.

Written comments on the study should be sent to the Billings Field Office, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101.